

Message Text

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ACTION DOTE-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

DRC-01 SS-20 /058 W

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P 271530Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7846

UNCLAS PARIS 7557

FOR STATE AND DOT

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS : ETRN, FR

SUBJECT : FRENCH TRANSPORT MINISTER'S VISIT TO US

REF : STATE 057842

1. RE PIEPER-MILLER TELCON MARCH 27, EMBASSY WISHES CONFIRM REQUEST FOR CABLED TEXT OF SECRETARY BRINEGAR'S CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE TO GUICHARD OF EARLIER THIS MONTH INVITING GUICHARD TO VISIT US. GUICHARD'S CHEF DE CABINET HAS NO RECORD OF RECEIPT OF MESSAGE, WHICH EXPLAINS ABSENCE OF ANY RESPONSE FROM GUICHARD. ONCE EMBASSY IS ABLE PROVIDE COPY GUICHARD WILL REPLY THAT HE IS UNABLE ACCEPT INVITATION BUT PROPOSES THAT ACHILLE-FOULD MAKE US TRIP IN HIS PLACE. THIS WILL THEN ENABLE DOT TO ISSUE FORMAL INVITATION DIRECTLY TO ACHILLE-FOULD.

2. ACHILLE-FOULD'S STAFF WAS UNAWARE THAT INVITATION HAD BEEN EXTENDED TO GUICHARD AND THEY HAD THUS BEEN WONDERING WHAT WAS DELAYING FORMAL CONFIRMATION OF INVITATION THEY UNDERSTOOD FROM LANSALOT-BASOU HAD BEEN EXTENDED TO ACHILLE-FOULD. APPARENTLY LANSALOT-BASOU, WHEN IN PARIS EARLIER THIS MONTH, HAD SUGGESTED TO ACHILLE-FOULD THAT

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HE MAKE THE VISIT IN RESPECTING SAME PROGRAM AND

DATES THAT HAD BEEN PROPOSED FOR GUENA. ACHILLE-FOULD HAD AGREED. WE CLARIFIED SITUATION AS BEST WE COULD FOR ACHILLE-FOULD'S STAFF AND ADDED THAT WE UNDERSTOOD FROM DOT (PIEPER TELCON MARCH 13) THAT APRIL 22 DATE MIGHT NO LONGER BE FEASIBLE BUT THAT WE WOULD CHECK FURTHER.

3. EMBASSY MIGHT NOTE THAT WHILE ACHILLE-FOULD, AS SECRETARY OF STATE FOR TRANSPORT, IS ONLY JUNIOR MINISTER REPORTING TO GUICHARD IN LATTER'S CAPACITY AS MINISTER OF STATE FOR EQUIPMENT AND TRANSPORT, ACHILLE-FOULD HAS MOVED INTO GUENA'S OFFICE AND TAKEN CHARGE OF TRANSPORT MINISTRY PREMISES, HIS STAFF ASSURES US THAT HE WILL HAVE SAME RANGE OF RESPONSIBILITIES AS DID GUENA AS FULL-FLEDGED TRANSPORT MINISTER. AS REPORTED PARIS 7398 IT IS ACHILLE-FOULD, FOR EXAMPLE, WHO MEETS ON MARCH 29 WITH BRITISH MINISTER WEDGEWOOD-BENN TO DECIDE ON FUTURE OF CONCORDE PROGRAM, WITH GUICHARD SLATED TO JOIN TALKS ONLY IN FINAL PHASE.

4. EMBASSY SUGGESTS THAT PLANNING FOR ACHILLE-FOULD VISIT BE CHANNELED THROUGH PARIS RATHER THAN THROUGH FRENCH EMBASSY WASHINGTON UNTIL SUCH TIME AS WE CAN GET SITUATION BACK ON THE RAILS.STONE

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